

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-21 are pending in this application. Claims 1-4 and 6 stand rejected. Claims 7-21 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to the non-elected invention. None of the claims stand objected to. The Applicants herein amend independent Claims 1, 2, and 6 (and dependent Claims 3 and 4) to clarify the scope of the instantly claimed invention. Support for Claims 1, 2, and 6, as amended, can be found in the as-filed claims and specification. Accordingly, these amendments introduce no new matter.

In view of the following amendment and response, the Applicants believe the claims presented herein are allowable. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, FIRST PARAGRAPH

Claims 1-4, and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph for allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner maintains that the claims allegedly contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

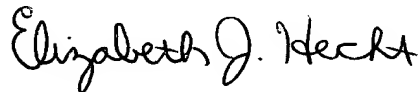
The currently pending claims recite a "functional equivalent" as part of the invention. However, the Examiner contends that there does not appear to be adequate written description in the as-filed specification of the essential structural feature that provides the recited functional equivalent of the oligonucleotide sequence WXYCAGACZ. In response to this rejection, the Applicants herein amend independent Claims 1, 2, and 6 (and therefore dependent Claims 3 and 4) to remove the phrase, "or functional equivalents thereof." Accordingly, the Applicants submit that Claims 1-6, as amended, have sufficient written description support in the as-filed specification.

The Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the forgoing remarks and the claims as amended, the Applicants have overcome the Examiner's rejection of Claims 1-4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.

The Applicants reserve the right to prosecute, in one or more patent applications, the claims to non-elected inventions, the claims as originally filed, and any other claims supported by the specification. The Applicants thank the Examiner for the Office Action and believe this response to be a full and complete response to such Office Action. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

If it would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to confer with the Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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